

## SENATE—Thursday, January 25, 2001

The Senate met at 11:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer today will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father James Francis Trainor, pastor at Saint Mary's/Saint Patrick's Parish, Wilmington, DE.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father James Francis Trainor, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray and bring ourselves into the presence of the Lord.

Loving God, Creator of all that is and all that shall be, who in Your providence have filled our lives with the opportunity for sufficiency in our everyday existence, give us a clear vision of the challenge You set before us as individuals and as a nation.

Help us to live this vision with such an appreciation of our blessing that we feel compelled to share that blessing and that sufficiency with all our sisters and brothers in the human family.

Lord, in a special way, guide and strengthen the men and women of this Senate as they seek daily to solve the problems and meet the challenges of this Nation. Help them to have that honest dedication which singles them out as Your humble servants. May they always remember that You are at their side, guiding their steps and weighing their actions.

Help these servants of the people, as they enter into a new year and a new millennium, to be filled with such courage that they fear not the tasks before them but meet them with confidence, remembering that they can do all things through You who strengthen them. May they recall that wisdom of old: "Unless the Lord builds the city, you labor in vain, who build it."—Psalm 127:1. May they walk always with You. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

### THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, it is my honor to welcome Father Jim Trainor to the Senate this morning, but I think

it was his honor to be escorted to the President's chair by one of the great men of the Senate, Senator STROM THURMOND. I am sure one of the things that Father Trainor will take from this experience is, not particularly the fact that he gets to see Senator CARPER and me—he sees us all the time at home—but the fact he got to meet STROM THURMOND, the legendary STROM THURMOND.

Mr. THURMOND. Thank you. That is kind of you.

Mr. BIDEN. When Father Trainor put his hand out—Senator THURMOND was introduced to Father Trainor a moment before the prayer—he looked at Senator THURMOND and said: "Senator, you are an inspiration." And you are an inspiration, STROM. You are an inspiration to all of us and you are a darned good friend of mine and I'm glad you got to meet my buddy, Father Jim Trainor.

My colleagues do not know this, but Father Trainor prays for us every Sunday in Wilmington. I think he prays particularly hard for me because he is always making an extra prayer—maybe the Irish part of him—praying for the politicians and public officials.

I say to the majority leader, Senator LOTT, I go to a church called Saint Joseph's on the Brandywine, an old church that was built by the Du Pont family for "their Irish" back at the turn of the century, the turn of the 19th century, the early 1800s.

But my daughter and my wife like to go to Saint Patrick's Church, which is an inner-city church that, when I was a kid growing up, was in an Irish parish, and is now in the middle of the city and the parish is predominantly African American. It has become the haven for everyone in need in the city. Father Trainor has been there for about 25 years and has built and rebuilt that parish.

There is a long series of steps to go up to the church. It is an old-fashioned church where the actual church altar is on the second floor and below are all the meeting rooms. You walk up these two flights of stairs and occasionally—I know my colleagues will find this hard to believe—I am late.

It is such an honor to be invited here and an honor to have an opportunity to invite someone here. As you all know, this invitation went out over 6 months ago, a long time ago.

So I made the mistake of walking in a little bit late this Sunday evening for 5 o'clock mass. As I walked in the door, I knew I made a mistake. It was like being back in school. Father Trainor was up in the pulpit and I missed part

of his sermon. He looked down to the congregation and he said: By the way, one other thing I want to tell you all. I want to tell you that I have had the great honor of being invited to open a session of the U.S. Senate this week. It came from the late JOE BIDEN—who just walked in the door. And then he proceeded to tell a story I hope he won't mind my telling.

He was standing in front of the entire congregation last Sunday—and by the way, this congregation attracts most of its people not from the parish. They are young professionals who come from all over the city to come into that 5 o'clock mass at night because of Father Trainor. It is always packed. It is literally standing room only. The few of us who are occasionally late, we stand a lot.

He told the following story: "I want the congregation to pray for me," he said, "because I hope I don't make the mistake I made the first time I was in Washington."

I was a young seminarian, in graduate school, and I came to Baltimore to drop off my trunk early in the summer. I had a good friend with me who was wheelchair bound. It was his car. We decided to go visit Washington. The only thing I remember in Washington is everything is steps, steps, steps. I was a pretty tough guy, and I would take that wheelchair and move it up the stairs.

He is going like this in the pulpit.

So we went all over the city. We finished up at the Capitol.

That was before, thanks to Bob Dole and others, we had accessible entrances to our buildings in 1961 or 1962. I don't remember the exact year.

He said:

I got to the Capitol steps and I looked up and said, "Sweet Lord, I can't do that." I walked around the side. There was a nice Capitol Policeman there. I said, "You guys have elevators here?" He said, "Sure, bring your friend in." I brought my friend in, and the officer said, "You can use those elevators. You can use them. I am sure they won't mind because of the circumstances."

Then two senatorial fellows got in the elevator and he said they both looked at him.

He said:

I didn't know what to say.

I hope I am saying this accurately.

He said:

Senators, I am sorry we are in here, but the police officer told us that because the other umbrella was broken, we could take this umbrella to the second floor.

He said:

I hope I don't do that when I say my prayer this time.

I told him a story. The first time I came here, I was a student at the University of Delaware. A number of my